

**ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Meeting at Illinois Institute of Technology, January 16, 2015

Minutes approved 1/20/2015

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Sonya Armstrong (NIU)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
John Bennett (at large, Lake Land College)
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Terry Clark (SIUC)
Steve Depasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)
Michael Gizzi (ISU)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)
Luisette Hernandex-Medina (Daley College)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Dan Hrozencik (CSU)
Les Hyder (EIU)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern)
Larry Levinson (GSU)
Alejandro Mayer (Midwestern University)
Duce McCune (Eureka)
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)
Dawn Munson (Elgin)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)
Aida Shekib (GSU)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Adam Tournier (McKendree)
Steve Vivian (South Suburban College)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)
Renee Wright (Triton)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Victoria Childs (UIS)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Ray Meredith (Parkland College)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)
Rock Valley College

Abbas convened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. Andy welcomed us to campus and introduced Russell Betts, Dean of the College of Science, who has been at IIT since 2008. At that time, their budget situation was problematic. That has completely turned around and enrollment is up. Deferred maintenance is a major issue for the campus. There were some question posed to Dr. Betts about the representation of women, students of color, and mentoring in such majors as Biology and Computer Science. IIT's admission is highly competitive and programs are rigorous; this may disadvantage local area students. They have a NSF grant directed at middle school teachers to improve this situation.

Abbas reported that a former state senator who is now at UIUC will meet with us at an upcoming FAC meeting. Marie noted that student government associations across the state are messaging about MAP and encouraging filing FAFSA applications earlier. Steve R. indicated that a new representative from Rock Valley College will be named shortly. By phone, Michael Afolayan stated that IBHE is still looking over the applications for the Faculty Fellowship; while 7 faculty expressed interest, 3 have submitted applications. Two vacancies in Academic Affairs are forthcoming, including Michael's position. Marie asked about how Rauner's request for state agencies to spend only on essential services will affect IBHE; Michael indicated this is unknown at the moment.

Caucuses met. The Privates discussed how Obama's community college proposal might impact them and MAP. Other topics of interest included: Rauner's cuts for nonessential state services, college readiness, PARCC, Common Core, faculty roles, a new University of Chicago program (To and Through, linking high school reports at the district level and from individual school level for students with the student's future outcomes).

The Publics considered Obama's proposal and its impacts, the City of Chicago proposal for free community college for selective CPS graduates (could this be linked to the students staying in Illinois for further education?), and the effect on GPS and 60 by 2025. The caucus requests examples of how budget cuts have affected students. These will be compiled and the stories shared with legislators. We are asked to go to our Senates and solicit examples.

The Community Colleges were concerned about declines in enrollment at some schools and the impact on staffing, budget cut impacts, Obama's proposal (is this moving us towards a K-14 system and what about transferability and remediation?), counselor positions, professional development, and developmental education and using up financial aid.

Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission joined us. He highlighted some recent reports that were mandated by legislation. These are all available on their web site. One looked at the idea of "pay it forward". 24 states have some interest in this idea and their situations and proposals were considered by a committee. The basic idea is that students would have free tuition (considered a loan) and would pay back after graduation from a percentage of their income with some loan

forgiveness. There would significant startup costs and a need for a long term funding source, not just a pilot program. The report was sent to the General Assembly.

Another committee looked at advising for MAP and at-risk students; it recommended that if a school's completion rate is under 80%, that it be improved by 5% and to reduce achievement gaps by income levels by 25%. Another recommendation was to have mandatory advising for MAP and at-risk students utilizing best practices. While there is a lot of advising currently going on, ISAC recognizes that schools are very diverse and one size doesn't fit all. The recommendations are being implemented through ISAC rules. Dan B. noted the need for good longitudinal data to track students. Zarnikow responded that the data is getting better and there are proxy measures.

Zarnikow also commented on the issue of college affordability. Costs have risen far more than family income, leading to increasing student debt and unmet need. A general question is being raised about whether college is worth it. As far as Obama's and the City of Chicago's proposals for free community college tuition for some, what problems are trying to be solved? What students would be eligible? Where does the money come from? What is the most efficient way of directing funds? The proposals would apply to remaining need after Pell, MAP, and other assistance are applied.

The issues of improving graduation and retention rates were posed. Marie noted an increase in students requesting counseling; it's not just access and affordability. Andy added that a student needs to go to a school where they are more likely to be successful. Better high school advising and counseling are needed. Zarnikow mentioned the role of the ISAC Corps which helps students understand the process of applying for college, financial assistance, and their options. The high school guidance counselor system may not be doing a sufficient job. Devi suggested student support structure beyond the financial assistance is important. Larry observed the replacement of professional or faculty advising with online registration. Darcel stated the importance of a personal connection. Steve D. said some students simply lack motivation and can't be retained. Renee suggested that earlier partnerships would be useful. Zarnikow was surprised to find that parental support for their students going to college is not universal.

Following lunch, the minutes from our December 12th meeting were approved. Representative Dunkin did not show up.

We need to think about ideas for discussion at our April 7th meeting with the IBHE. Some suggestions included: the stipend for the IBHE Faculty Fellow, our need to be at the table for budget discussions, FAC being a resource for the Higher Education Legislative Caucus, the role and participation of the IBHE liaison at our meetings, an update on GPS, and the impact of Obama's community college proposal and its impacts.

The FAC election committee was formed: Steve D., Sonya, and Shawn. Andy and IIT were thanked for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steven Rock, FAC Secretary.